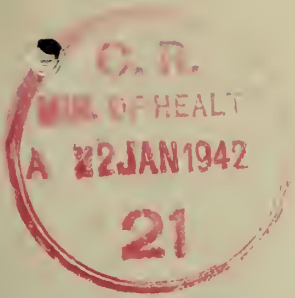


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MYN YDDISLWYN

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31ST. DEC., 1940.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

FONTLANFRAITH, Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HAROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in placing before you my Annual Report for 1940, and I am pleased to say that in spite of war conditions the general health of the community has been good.

The Birth Rate was nearly the same as that of 1939, which showed a substantial increase, compared with 1938.

There was a slight increase in the Death Rate but I am pleased to say that there was a decrease in the number of deaths of infants under 1 year.

Regarding Tuberculosis, there was a substantial decrease in the number of new cases - 16 against 24 in the previous year, while the deaths from it were 8 against 11.

The number of deaths from Cancer was exactly half of that of 1939, - 7 against 14.

Scarlet Fever cases notified showed an increase being double the number last year, but it was of a mild type again.

Diphtheria cases notified, showed a reduction, but there was one death.

During the year under review, we had a number of cases of Measles, mild in type - no death was reported.

There were 15 cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever - 14 being taken to Hospital and 5 deaths were reported. In 1939, there was a similar number of cases. All contacts were swabbed for carriers and the necessary measures taken.

This being a Reception Area, 1,293 Unaccompanied children, 321 Accompanied children and 202 Adults were received.

The children were all examined on arrival, and on the whole their general condition was good, and except for some cases of skin affections it has remained good.

A Hostel was established to deal with any cases requiring any special attention.

I would like to pay a tribute to Mrs Jones, the Hostel, and also the Foster Parents for their care of their charges and the interest they have taken in them, and of the children I would say they have been Britons in the truest sense.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. James, Sanitary Inspector and the Council's Staff for the help they have given me during the year, and also Drs. Jones and Evans, of the Tuberculosis Clinic, for their many kindnesses, and here too I acknowledge and thank the Staff of the County Hall, under Dr. D. Rocyn Jones, for their services.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres.)	5,415
Population 1940 (estimated - resident)	13,530 X
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books.	3,215 X
Rateable Value.	£47,795
Product of Penny Rate.	£168: 9: 0:

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	M	F
Live Births - Legitimate	123	122
Illegitimate	1	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population.	18.4	
Deaths.	153	
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population.	11.3	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:- All infants per 1,000 live births.	91.4	
Deaths from Cancer - all ages.	7	
Deaths from Measles - all ages.	-	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- A. Part-time Medical Officer of Health: C.G. Mackay, M.B.
 B. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector: P.S. James, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

2. Laboratory Facilities.

County Council.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is provided by private contract and used for general purposes other than for the removal of Infectious Diseases.

C. Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing Association.

D. Clinic and Treatment Centres.

County Council.

E. Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.

No change from previous report.

WATER SUPPLY.

The main source of water supply, which is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board, has again, on the whole (during the Year)

been excellent in quality and fairly plentiful.

It is pleasing to note that with the exception of a few isolated places, the whole of the district is supplied with water from the Board's main.

The Engineer takes samples at regular intervals and ensures a safe supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A new sewer was constructed at Baboll Row, Cwmfelinfach.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been taken in relation to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, of course, the coal-dust, and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in all the built-up areas are provided with water-closets. There, remains, however, a few outlying portions of the area, and houses on the hill-tops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers: these are provided with pail-closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Owing to the war Salvaging was introduced and it was found necessary to reduce the collection of Refuse from 3 to 2 days per week.

On the disposal of refuse, I am pleased to report that the centralized system of tipping and control is being carried out very satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

(a) Number of Inspections made during the year	760
(b) Number of Notices served - Informal	133
Number of Notices served - Statutory	7

SHOPS.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the Shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934 and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respects in compliance, letters were sent to the occupiers and the matters were immediately attended to.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the district are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the respective Water Boards.

The Sanitary Conveniences, and the Schools, themselves are of modern construction; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary

Inspector and a fairly high standard of cleanliness and order is maintained in and about the Schools.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Extensive facilities are provided for sun-bathing and games. Facilities are also provided for Juvenile instruction and twelve schools received instruction during the past year. The total number of attendances of pupils who received such instruction was 5,280 and a large number acquired a certificate of proficiency. The total number of bathers and spectators were as follows:-

Bathers (Adults)	7,610
Bathers (Juvenile) including School Classes.	21,020
Spectators. (Adults)	2,794
Spectators. (Juvenile)	2,882
	<hr/>
	34,308
	<hr/>

HOUSING.

1. Inspections of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) 268
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 440
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925 Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
3. (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Nil
4. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation. 157

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices.

1. (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 123

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

- A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936, NIL

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 7

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) By Owners.

7

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.

Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders.

Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936, - OVERCROWDING.

A number of houses became overcrowded as a result of Mothers and children being evacuated from the evacuable areas. As the Sanitary Inspector is also the Chief Billleting Officer, this was abated by removing the evacuees to other suitable accommodation.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK - The Sanitary Inspector has been visiting the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds within the area during the year and many improvements were effected as a result of such visits.

Special effort was made during the year to take samples of Milk from all producers and retailers in the district (in conjunction with the County Health Department) for the purpose of Bacteriological Examination.

Visits were made frequently to the Shops, Bakehouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared and sold.

Vans and Carts used for the hawking of the various foodstuffs were carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

(b) ADULTERATION - The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS.

All examinations under this heading are carried out by the Laboratories of the County Council.

(d) NUTRITION - No special work has been carried out by your Health Department under this heading.

INQUESTS

There were 6 inquests held on persons residing in your area; three were coal-miners, two were housewives, and one a young lady.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A large number of skin diseases occurred in the district, the majority being evacuated children. These cases were dealt with accordingly.

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to the Hospitals namely: Allt-yr-yn Isolation Hospital, Newport, Bedwelly Isolation Hospital, and Monmouth Isolation Hospital.

The number of cases of each disease that necessitated removal

can be seen in the prepared table (Notifiable Diseases.)

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Streptocide for Puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department, of the Council Offices, and the Medical Practitioners in the district make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teachers of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and bedding are fumigated by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>HOSPITAL CASES.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	18	-	-
Diphtheria.	32	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	5	-	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	15	14	5
Whooping-cough.	8	-	-
Measles.	196	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS - No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS - No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following:-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Age	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul		Pulmonary		Non-Pul	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
25	-	3	1	1	2	2	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	4	4	4	3	5	-	-

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the house to ascertain conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where patients are removed to Hospital or Sanatorium the Inspector again pays a visit and causes the premises to be fumigated and in some cases walls are stripped, and bedding etc., destroyed. In the absence of a Steam Disinfector bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1940.

Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

Population	Nett Births.		Total deaths registered in the District.	
	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate
13,530	245	18.4	153	11.3

Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District	
Non residents registered in the District	Residents not in the District	Under 1 yr.	All ages.
		No. Rate	No. Rate
1	21	15 61.2	172 12.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1940.

NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT AGES UNDER 1 YEAR.

<u>CAUSES.</u>	<u>Under 1 week.</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks.</u>	<u>1 month - 12 months.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Convulsions.	2	-	1	3
Gastritis.	-	-	1	1
Meningitis. (not Tuberculosis)	-	-	1	1
Bronchial Pneumonia.	-	1	6	7
Premature Birth.	1	-	-	1
TOTAL.	3	1	9	13

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1940.Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

CAUSES	<p>Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" occurring within the District (a)</p>									TOTAL DEATHS IN THE DISTRICT
	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
All Causes (Certified (Uncertified.										
Meningitis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
Cancer.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4		9
Arterio Sclerosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6		8
Heart.	-	-	-	-	1	2	15	25		43
Rheumatic Fever.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		1
Bronchitis..	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	5		11
Gastro Enteritis.	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	2		7
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5		7
Broncho-Pneumonia.	7	3	-	-	-	-	2	3		15
Senile Decay.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8		8
Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		1
Exophthalmic Goitre.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1
Asthenia.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2
Pernicious Anaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1
Premature Birth.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		1
Convulsions.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
Other Defined Causes.	1	-	2	1	3	8	12	2		29
TOTAL.	14	3	3	3	5	14	44	61		137

MYNYDDISLWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1940.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

PONTLLANFRAITH, Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

After a rather strenuous year I am again privileged to submit my report for the year ending the 30th December, 1940.

NOTICES SERVED:

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	133
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	7
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	760

Below is given a list of the sanitary defects which were remedied:-

Main, Pantry and W.C. roofs repaired	89
Eaves, gutters provided and repaired	107
Defective drains repaired	42
Drains opened and cleansed	94
New Flush Tanks in W.C.'s	21
Flush Tanks repaired in W.C.'s	68
New Pans in W.C.'s	29
Ventilation Shafts repaired	27
Rain water pipes repaired	73
Dilapidated W.C.'s repaired	21
Defective W.C. joints etc.,	36
New W.C.'s provided	-
Houses repaired (external)	83
Houses repaired (internal)	41
Cess pools cleansed.	2
Fowls-cot nuisances abated	-
Pig-sty nuisances abated	-
Conversion of Pails into W.C.'s	-
Overcrowding abated	25
Dilapidated back-yard re-paved	21
Dirty premises	14

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of Slaughterhouses on register	3
Number of visits made	NIL

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT - These important duties were discharged with the same vigilance as in the past.

Since the Ministry of Food brought about the centralization of slaughtering, it was not found necessary to pay visits to any of your private Slaughterhouses in your district, as all food animals were slaughtered at the "Buttry Hatch" Slaughterhouse, Maesycwmmer. Never-the-less inspections to the Meat Purveyors Shops had to be carried out with the same care as in the past.

Full advantage was again taken by persons who reared pigs on cottage premises, or small holdings, and killed thereon after due notice of intended slaughter in accordance with the stipulations of the Ministry of Health Circular (604), the special provisions granted by the Council, and in accordance with an order made by the Ministry of Food.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

In conjunction with the Health Department of the County Council, 66 samples of milk (including repeat samples) were taken for bacteriological examination and for the detection of tubercle bacilli. The majority of samples were ladled out of jacks, serving-pails, and churns of retailers on the street; and the standard, bacteriologically, on the whole was fairly satisfactory.

Retailers whose samples were not of the desired standard were notified and interviewed personally, and where repeat sampling and consultations proved unsatisfactory, the vendors responsible were reported to the Council and further measures were taken to ensure that these samples were brought up to a satisfactory standard.

I am pleased to report that no Tubercle Bacilli were found in any of the samples taken. The carton system of milk delivery has not with one exception been introduced into this district, but a number of milk purveyors deliver their milk in sealed bottles.

The general standard of your milk supply is a fairly good one.

Numerous visits were made to the cowsheds and dairies during the year, and it was only in a few cases that the cleanliness was not up to expectations. The farmer was spoken to and at the time of the re-visit the conditions were improved.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Cowsheds on Register	55
Number of retail purveyors on Register	53
Number of wholesale purveyors on Register	19
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	132
Inspections of Milk Shops	21

UNSOUND MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following articles were surrendered and destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

CANNED GOODS.

	Tins.		Tins.
Tin Milk	32	Sardines	18
Salmon	4	Corn Beef	8

Canned Goods (Contd.)

	<u>Tins.</u>		<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Lobster	-	Jam	31
Syrup	3	Rabbits	8
Mixed Fruits	11	Fish	-
Cream	6	Fruit	142 lbs.
Herrings	8	Prunes	28 lbs.
Tongue	-	Eggs	-

FRIED FISH AND ICE CREAM SHOPS.

The premises that come under the above heading were visited regularly. It was not found necessary to serve any notices or take any "formal" action.

ICE CREAM - Most of the ice cream sold in your district was produced under hygienic conditions, by persons who appreciate the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness in its production, but there is (in my opinion) still need for a legal standard for ice cream.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified:-

Small Pox	-
Scarlet Fever	18
Diphtheria	32
Enteric Fever	-
Tuberculosis - all forms	16
Erysipelas	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	15

CINEMAS.

Number in the area	2
Inspections made	5
Notices served	0

HOUSING.

With the increase in population of Evacuees and Soldiers overcrowding, and numerous housing difficulties arose. As I am also the Chief Billeting Officer I have constantly been kept in touch with these matters, and was able to deal with them accordingly.

TENTS VANS AND SHEDS.

Owing to the strenuous efforts made in past years to prevent the erection of this type of building for human habitation, very little

trouble has been experienced during the year in respect to any new-comers and no case has been before the Courts.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number in the area	1
Inspections made	4
Notices served	-

INCREASE OF RENTS AND MORTGAGE (INTEREST) RESTRICTION ACTS.

No application was made for a certificate under the above Act during the year.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Number of	a. 1. - Council Houses infested	8
	b. 2. - Council Houses Disinfested	8
	a. 1. - Other Houses Infested	2
	b. 2. - Other Houses Disinfested	2

The methods employed for freeing the infested houses from bed bugs is by stripping, spraying, the use of a Painter's Blow-Lamp, and in some cases Sulphur Candles.

All vacant Council Houses are immediately notified to the Health Department. A visit is then made to the premises and if necessary disinfestation is carried out before the in-going tenant occupies the premises.

No steps were taken to ensure that the beds of in-going tenants were free from bugs.

Disinfestation is carried out in the Council Houses by direct labour, and in other cases this work is undertaken by the owners or occupiers.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The powers exercisable by the Monmouthshire County Council having been delegated to the Council, are being administered (on your instructions) by myself. The Sewers, Tips, Water Courses, and all property likely to be rat infested have been systematically baited during the year, with good results.

It is regretted that some people still prefer to tolerate this very costly and objectionable nuisance, rather than construct their premises on rat-proof lines, so that no access or harbourage can be afforded these vermin. This part of the work demands a fair amount of my time, and to succeed in keeping these pests within a reasonable number requires periodical baiting and investigation. The baits used are Cyanogas, Barium Carbonate, and Biscuits.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	25	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	21	2	-
Other Premises	7	-	-
TOTAL.	53	4	-

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2		
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable Temperature				
Inadequate Ventilation				
Ineffective drainage of floors				
San. Cons. - insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective	2	2		
Not separate for sexes.				
	4	4		

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P.S. JAMES.

